STORMWATCH: TEAM ACHILLES #24

"LAY FALLOW"

by

Micah Ian Wright

First Draft 5/06/04

Wildstorm Comics
888 Prospect Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037

StormWatch: Team Achilles
#24 “Lay Fallow”
Written by Micah Ian Wright
First Draft
May 06, 2004

PAGE 1

PANEL ONE

Full page wide panel (important that panels 1 & 2 are wide to separate out the rest of the page).

Tavern on the Green restaurant, New York City, nighttime. Candles illuminate all of the tables with soft, love film lighting. In the foreground, Baron Chaos and Mandy, the Red Cross Worker who rescued him from The Authority last issue are having a quiet meal. The Baron has his back to camera and none of his armor on, wearing a nice Armani 4-button suit instead. The back of his head is all scarred up like last issue.

BORDERLESS LOCATION CAPTION
Tavern on the Green, New York City

CAPTION
Twenty minutes ago...

MANDY
Well, gosh, Kenny, that was just about the best meal I ever done did eat! Thank you so very much!

BARON CHAOS
No, it is I who wish to thank YOU, Mandy. You’ve brought something out of me that I thought had died long ago.

PANEL TWO

Full wide shot. C/U of Mandy, she smiles at the Baron.

MANDY
Oh, you’re not dead, Kenny! You’re the most alivest man I ever seen! What was it that hurt you so bad?

BARON CHAOS
It is a sad story, one that goes back several centuries. I have not told it to anyone in a long, long time... but for you? Anything.

PANEL THREE

Okay... go grab an issue of SLEEPER... see how they do the “character backstory game” with the little square cube-boxes two wide and three tall with a white border around them?

CONTINUED:

That’s what we’re doing here, only we’re doing it with Baron Chaos’ Origin Story. The backgrounds are simple, the layouts very straightforward, no exotic camera angles, and the colors a little paler and washed out than the story around them.

In this panel, a young boy with a crown sits on a throne, bored. Chin on his hand, elbow on the throne, crown tilted to the side.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
Once upon a time in a small Eastern European country, there was a curious Prince who was very bored.

PANEL FOUR

Side shot. On the left, a young peasant in chains kneels before the throne, staring upwards at the Prince. On the top right, the Prince stares down at the peasant.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
One day a poor beggar child was brought before the Prince for stealing food from the Royal kitchens.

PANEL FIVE

Close-up. The two twins face-to-face; they’re identical except one’s dirty and the other wears the crown.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The prince and the peasant were astounded to discover that they looked just like one another.

PANEL SIX

The Prince stands before a mirror. Now he’s dressed in rags but still with a clean face. He still wears the crown.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The Prince wished to see how the common people lived, so he disguised himself as the beggar boy...

PAGE 2

Same layout, with the small cubes.

PANEL ONE

The Prince (clean-faced) in rags walks out the front gates of a palace, wide-eyed and smiling.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
And so the Prince went forth in his land to see how his people lived.

PANEL TWO

The Prince buys a meal with coins from a leather purse.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The Prince went immediately to a tavern and ordered the food and drink of his people.

PANEL THREE

The Prince's food sits before him, untouched. There are several empty tankards of drink in front of him, though.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The Prince found the commoners' food not to his liking... but their wine was another story.

PANEL FOUR

The Prince staggers from the bar.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
He grew quite drunk and left the tavern...

PANEL FIVE

The drunken Prince stares at a streetwalker's cleavage.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
And met a comely young lass...

PANEL SIX

The prince is beaten by a group of thugs.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
Who lured him to a nearby alley where he was robbed and beaten to a pulp by the woman's companions.

PAGE 3

PANEL ONE

The prince stands at the palace gates. A guard stands before him, arms crossed over his chest, blocking his path.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The next day, the Prince returned to the castle where he was told to go away.

PANEL TWO

The prince screams at the guard.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The Prince screamed and the guard and told who he was and that when returned to power, he would have the guard's flesh torn from his bones.

PANEL THREE

A group of guards beats the Pauper-dressed Prince to a pulp.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
The guard and his friends beat the Prince to a bloody pulp.

PANEL FOUR

The guards carry the unconscious Prince onto a ship.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
And then the guards press-ganged the Prince into his own navy.

PANEL FIVE

Widescreen. Back in the restaurant. Mandy puts her hand over her mouth.

MANDY
Why that's the most horrible thing I've ever heard! What happened to the fake Prince? The Pauper boy?

BARON CHAOS
He grew old, became King, and had false princes whose bastard descendants were swept from power by the Communists.

3 CONTINUED:

PANEL SIX

Widescreen. On Baron Chaos. Frontal shot, but we can’t see anything but his glittering, scarred eyes and shining teeth. The rest of his face is concealed in shadows.

BARON CHAOS

I killed the last of his line and was about to reassume my rightful throne when StormWatch captured me. Santini and his comrades shall pay for that effrontery...

PAGES 4-5

TWO PAGE SPREAD

PANEL ONE

Giant two-page spread. Draw your guts out...

A million dead African zombies march up a hill, firing machine guns at Santini & crew. Crew = Santini, Ajit Singh, Flint, & Jager. Everyone fires back at the approaching rotting zombies. Jaeger carries the unconscious Jukko over one shoulder and fires back and he falls back backwards up the hill.

BARON CHAOS (CAPTION)
...any moment now.

BORDERLESS LOCATION CAPTION
Congo, Africa. Project Entry Universe.

JAEGER
Jukko is out of it, sir! The pain feedback must be too much for him!

SINGH
We're getting FLANKED, Colonel!

SANTINI
FLINT! Do something about our right flank!

FLINT
I'm on it!

PAGE 6

PANEL ONE

Flint tears a HUGE rock out of the ground...

FLINT

Hrrrrnnnnaaaaaaaaah!

PANEL TWO

...and hurls it down the hill towards a group of Zombies...

FLINT

Faaaaaaaaaghhn!

PANEL THREE

...the rock RIPS through a group of the Zombies, flinging them everywhere...

FLINT

GO!

PANEL FOUR

Small panel. C/U on Santini.

SANTINI

Go! Chase the hole! TEFIBI!

TEFIBI (OVER RADIO)

SIR?

SANTINI

(yellng bubble)

YOU AND HALLIBASTARD GIVE ME SOME FUCKING AIR COVER!

TEFIBI (OVER RADIO)

We're on it!

PAGE 7

PANEL ONE

The team runs downhill as fast as they can, leaping over half-smashed zombies who are reaching out to grab them.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

Far above the ground, Over the shoulder shot as HALLIBASTARD/GIANT flies downwards towards the ground, hands out in front of him in the classic Superman pose.

COLOR NOTE: Color GIANT/HALLIBASTARD without the Red Tint. He's the only thing that looks normal here, a side-effect of him being "perfect".

HALLIBASTARD
(small font)
Three... Two... One...

PANEL THREE

Giant sweeps through a wave of Zombies, going so fast that he's just a blur of bright colors. Zombie Chunks fly everywhere.

HALLIBASTARD
Booooo-yaaaaaaaaah!

PAGE 8

PANEL ONE

High above the battleground, we see Tefibi stuffed into the Magnateer costume. He’s got the visor flipped up so we can see it’s him.

TEFIBI
Colonel Santini, you’re gonna want to lie down for the next twenty seconds.

SANTINI (OVER RADIO)
What are you doing, Tefibi.

TEFIBI
Just do it, sir. You’re headed right towards a massive problem.

PANEL TWO

Looking down on the battlefield, we see that Tefibi is right... emerging from the tall grass is a huge group of Zombies, firing their rifles.

TEFIBI
Well... here goes nothing...

PANEL THREE

Tefibi slaps the mask into place.

TEFIBI
Watch out you Zombie Motherfuckers... Here comes THE MAGNETEER!

PANEL FOUR

Tefibi speeds towards the ground on his flying disks (think: Kirby Mr. Miracle). He holds the giant Magnet Rifle in his hands.

NO DIALOG

PAGE 9

PANEL ONE

Tefibi fires the rifle at the ground below the lying-down StormWatch team. Swarming Zombies are maybe three feet from them.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

Huge chunks of rock rip out of the ground like little floating islands. The StormWatchers grip them, almost falling off and into the grasping hands of the Zombies down below.

JAEGER
Gott Im Himmel!

TEFIBI
Hang on, folks. Air Magneteer might be a little rough.

PANEL THREE

Tefibi flies off, pointing the rifle back at the stones, pulling them through the air. The Zombies are far away in the distance.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

C/U on Santini hanging onto a flying rock.

SANTINI
Tefibi?

TEFIBI (OVER RADIO)
Yessir?

SANTINI
Forget I made fun of you for bringing that outfit. You just saved our asses, Magneteer.

TEFIBI (OVER RADIO)
Just doing my job, sir. For God and Country and the Advancement of Science and all that great shit.

SANTINI
Good. Set us down somewhere with no Zombies around and let’s figure out what’s wrong with our Project Entry controls.

PAGE 10

PANEL ONE

From the high grass, Deadhead and Sonny Terns watch the StormWatchers fly off.

SONNY TERNS
Hey DeadHead, yer lettin' them sumbitches get the fuck away!

CITIZEN SOLDIER
You need to keep a civil tongue in your mouth, Terns...

PANEL TWO

BIG SHOT. Reveal of the new Citizen Soldier. She's an infant Chinese baby girl. She has the familiar upside-down American Flag on her tiny little face. She rides in a Baby Bjorn pouch on the shoulders of Jumpmaster, the teleporter from issue #23. Her tiny little baby hands grip Jumpmaster's hair to keep her stable.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
...Or else I'll gladly cut it out.

DEADHEAD
Why we leaving him alive again, Boss?

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Because I don't break my word. Even to scum.

PANEL THREE

The baby Citizen Soldier looks up to the sky at the rapidly disappearing StormWatchers.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
I wasn't expecting them to have airborne support, though. A massive flaw in my plan.

JUMPMASTER
Hell, Boss, you ain't even a year old. Yer bound to make mistakes.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Droll, Jumpmaster. Very droll. Okay, let's go rendezvous with our other sleezy ally... The aptly named...

PAGE 11

PANEL ONE

Baron Chaos and Mandy back at Tavern on the Green. Chaos and Mandy are sharing a creme brule for dessert. Chaos' wristwatch beeps.

CITIZEN SOLDIER (CAPTION)
...Baron Chaos

MANDY
-and so your great-grandpappy told his story to Mark Twain?

BARON CHAOS
To his eternal regret, yes. Twain used it as the basis for his novel "The Prince and the Pauper." Little did anyone suspect that it was true.

SOUND E/FX
(wristwatch)
Beepbeepbeepbeep

PANEL TWO

Chaos looks at his wristwatch.

BARON CHAOS
Heavens above, is that the time? I am late for an important meeting. Oh brutish hour... time spent with you flies at too rapid a pace, sweet Mandy!

MANDY
Oh, Kenny, I feel just the same way. Ever since I met you on THE CARRIER, I felt you were someone I wanted to get to know better. I sure am glad you called me back.

PANEL THREE

The two diners get up to leave. Baron Chaos drops two small gold bars on the table to pay for the meal. At the table beside them, two guys point at Chaos & Mandy and talk about them behind their hands.

BARON CHAOS
I comprehend your meaning well. We shall have to do this again. This is the first time I have dined in public this past ten years since my horrible accident which scarred my once beautiful face...

11 CONTINUED:

PANEL FOUR

Mandy kisses Baron Chaos on the cheek in the middle of the restaurant. At the bottom of the panel, the two guys smirk.

MANDY
Now, Kenny, you stop that talk... you're a wonderful man. You're strong, powerful and real smart. I don't care that your face is all burnt, really I don't!

GUY
(small font)
Dude, check out Beauty and the Beast.

PANEL FIVE

Short, full widescreen panel. Exterior, the glass-walled restaurant. It's dark outside, but the light from inside the restaurant is SUPER BRIGHT WHITE with Mandy and Baron Chaos sillouetted against it as he fires off his energy weapon.

BARON CHAOS
Insolent Churl!

SOUND E/FX
Tzzzzkkkaaaaaaakkkkkk!

GUY
Aaaahhhhhhhh!

PAGE 12

PANEL ONE

The Baron helps Mandy down from a horse-drawn carriage in front of his embassy.

MANDY
Well, I've give you this, Kenny Sigmund, no man I've ever dated has incinerated a man for insulting me before.

BARON CHAOS
You are sure it wasn't too much?

MANDY
Well... maybe just a touch, but this city's full of rude creeps, so maybe it'll help spread some good manners!

PANEL TWO

The Baron holds Mandy's hands.

BARON CHAOS
Do you HAVE to return to THE CARRIER?

MANDY
Well, I'm not technically due on duty for two more hours. Why?

PANEL THREE

The Baron scratches the back of his head and shuffles his feet in the Japanese "embarassment" pose.

BARON CHAOS
I was wondering perhaps if you... no, it's foolish, we both have places to be...

MANDY
You'll never know the answer until you ask me, Kenny.

BARON CHAOS
Mandy, Erhm... Curse This FOOL SHYNESS! Mandy Jones, would you like to Accompany me into my embassy for a drink and some premarital sexual relations?

PANEL FOUR

Mandy leads the Baron by his hand towards the Embassy's gate.

MANDY
I thought you'd never ask, Kenny.

PAGE 13

PANEL ONE

Under the red sun of Project Entry.

Jumpmaster and Deadhead stand around an empty clearing staring at their watches. Sitting on the ground below them is Citizen Soldier, playing with a shovel and sand and putting dirt in her mouth with her fingers like any normal baby.

In the background, a zombie walks through the scene (important: this is CODENAME: ALIAS, disguised). Nearby, tied up and gagged are Pinckney & Golovin.

DEADHEAD
Where the HELL is this guy? He shoulda been here two hours ago. Why don't you just go get him?

JUMPMASTER
For the last time, I can't go get him until he beams me the coordinates, got it? Do I tell you how to play with dead bodies? No? Then get off my back, boy!

CITIZEN SOLDIER
You two have a bigger problem right now.

PANEL TWO

C/U on Citizen Soldier, smiling a big gurgly baby smile. Cute little terrorist!

DEADHEAD (OFFSCREEN)
What's that, Boss?

CITIZEN SOLDIER
I just crapped in my diaper and one of you gets to change me!

PANEL THREE

Deadhead and Jumpmaster look at one another.

DEADHEAD
Not it.

JUMPMASTER
Oh, you rotten little creep.

PAGE 14

PANEL ONE

In Baron Chaos' bedroom. Mandy sits upright in the gothic iron framed bed, naked. The sheets are disarrayed, the pillows everywhere, a pile of torn-open condom packages on the bedside table next to a mounted sword on the wall. She's smoking. They did it. She looks satisfied, and totally hot.

MANDY
Kenny, I never done it with a world dictator before.

BARON CHAOS (O.S.)
How did you find it?

MANDY
Earthshattering.

BARON CHAOS (O.S.)
Excellent.

PANEL TWO

Reverse shot. Baron Chaos stands before the bed in his full costume and mask.

BARON CHAOS
Well... How do you like it? Dost thou tremble with fear at the sight of BARON CHAOS?!

PANEL THREE

Mandy crawls across the bed towards the Baron, nude.

MANDY
I tell ya, Baron, I'm tremblin' all right, but it ain't with fear... it's something a trifle more carnal.

PANEL FOUR

Belly up shot. Mandy snuggles up against the Baron. Her arm and hand are definitely between his legs. His eyes are just about popping out of his mask.

MANDY
Do you think we have time to go one more time before you go off to kill those awful people, Kenny?

BARON CHAOS
Well, errr... Verily, I MIGHT be able to be convinced....

14 CONTINUED:

MANDY
Do you think you could leave the costume on this time?

BARON CHAOS
Oh, Mandy, where have you been all my life?

PAGE 15

PANEL ONE

Project Entry. Daytime. The StormWatchers crouch around a rough sketch in the dirt that Santini is drawing with a stick.

SANTINI
Okay, everyone familiar with the plan?

FLINT
Are you sure this will work?

PANEL TWO

Santini shrugs.

SANTINI
Nope.

FLINT
I mean, you've done this before, right? When you were in the Black Razors?

SANTINI
Baby, I'm making this all up as I go along.

PANEL THREE

Santini addresses the rest of the gathered group.

SANTINI
Remember, our key priority is to rescue Galena & Pinckney. Secondary task is to figure out just how Baron Chaos is blocking our Project Entry exit transmitters. If you can, kill him. Any questions?

SINGH
I have a question. WHERE is Codename: Alias?

PANEL FOUR

C/U on Santini

SANTINI
We can only hope Frederick's getting close to Deadhead and his friends and will be ready to help us out when this all goes down.

SANTINI
Okay. Let's roll.

PAGE 16

PANEL ONE

Jumpmaster looks at his watch. It’s pinging.

SOUND E/FX
Pingpingpingpingping

JUMPMASTER
Well drink gas and shit fire, Baron Blabbermouth’s finally ready. Hold on a second and I’ll bring him through, boss.

JUMPMASTER
Boss?

PANEL TWO

Reverse angle. Citizen Soldier is asleep in Deadhead’s arms, mouth open, drooling. Deadhead waves Jumpmaster off.

DEADHEAD
Shhh... she’s catching a nap. I don’t want her grumpy all afternoon, so just bring Baron Bigmouth through and we’ll let her sleep until we get down to business.

PANEL THREE

Jumpmaster’s face scrunches up and a red star-shaped teleport hole opens up in midair, revealing Baron Chaos (Jumpmasters teleport stars are horizontal and beam you in head-down... see issues #16-18 for examples).

BARON CHAOS
It is about time, Fool!

JUMPMASTER
Shut it, tin man.

PANEL FOUR

Citizen Soldier yawns as she wakes up, stretching like a little kid.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Took you long enough, Baron.

BARON CHAOS
I was busy... erm... preparing for the calamitous battle which shall soon ensue! For now that we are together, we can implement the last step of our sinister strategem...

16 CONTINUED:

PANEL FIVE

The Baron hands Jumpmaster a piece of paper. In the background, a zombie walks through the scene (important: this is CODENAME: ALIAS).

BARON CHAOS
Transfer the last of our circle to this location on Earth.

JUMPMASTER
Sure thing, chuckles.

BARON CHAOS
Be glad that I am sated and in a happy mood ere I would destroy you for calling me “CHUCKLES.” Now do as I command... that the final step of our endgame might commence!

PAGE 17

PANEL ONE

Secret Magnetic North base. Barak sits at a computer panel, typing keys. Standing behind him is Doctor Grunier.

DR. GRUNIER
Barak, surely there's something you haven't tried?

BARAK
Dr. Grunier, you're not making anything easier here... I'm trying my best.

PANEL TWO

Reverse shot from behind the computer looking outwards at Barak & Grunier. Behind them, a red teleport star is beaming someone into the room. They don't notice, staring intently at the computer monitor.

BARAK
Man, why did Tefibi have to go along? He could have fixed this stupid thing in five seconds flat!

PANEL THREE

Behind the mystery intruder. It's Ivana Baiul. Big in the foreground is her hand, curled into a fist. Beyond the fist, Grunier & Barak stare at the computer.

GRUNIER
Try turning it off and on again...

BARAK
I've rebooted twice. That's not the problem... it's like someone is jamming the signal, but that's impossible.

IVANA BAIUL
It's not so impossible.

PANEL FOUR

Barak and Grunier spin at the same time. Grunier gets a punch to the head.

BARAK
Who-

GRUNIER
Ehhhn!

PAGE 18

PANEL ONE

Barak stares at Baiul. His eyes glow slightly (COLOR NOTE).

BARAK
FREEZE, LADY.

PANEL TWO

Baiul slugs Barak in the stomach. HARD. She's a robot, remember. He's bent over in half by the blow and it knocks him a few feet away.

BARAK
Whooomph!

IVANA BAIUL
Not this time, kid. Your little mind tricks won't work on me.

PANEL THREE

Barak holds his gut, blood coming out of his mouth as he stares up at Ivana. He points his hand at her.

BARAK
Your heart doesn't work. It's stopping.

IVANA BAIUL
Too bad I don't have one.

BARAK
What the Hell are you?

PANEL FOUR

She kicks him in the jaw, knocking him unconscious.

IVANA BAIUL
One hundred thirty seven pounds of plastic and metal and 3 pounds of human brain inside a shatterproof diamonsteel casing.

PANEL FIVE

She holds Barak up by his collar.

IVANA BAIUL
Why? Were you getting hot for little ole Ivana?

PAGE 19

PANEL ONE

Project Entry Universe.

Citizen Soldier sits atop Jumpmaster’s shoulders again. Nearby are Deadhead, Baron Chaos and Sonny Terns. In the background, a zombie walks through the scene (Codename: Alias).

SONNY TERNS
How we gonna know if she’s done her job?

BARON CHAOS
She’ll open a portal from their base. We resupply, hunt down Santini and his team, then return to our own world.

SONNY TERNS
Well, I wish she’d hurry up. I’m tired of this red-tinged hellhole.

DEADHEAD
Well, you made it when you sent that Devil guy here to kill everyone on the planet.

PANEL TWO

Citizen Soldier is suddenly furious.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
WHAT? Why haven’t I heard about this before?

DEADHEAD
I thought I told you... he totally admitted that he killed everyone on this planet!

CITIZEN SOLDIER
No, you didn’t fucking tell me, you hammerbrained monkeylover! I would NEVER have made this deal if I’d known...

PANEL THREE

Citizen Soldier cuts off as she looks upwards.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Does anyone else hear-

PANEL FOUR

The ground around them EXPLODES as HALLIBASTARD SLAMS INTO BARON CHAOS at peak speed straight down. Everyone is tossed from their feet.

19 CONTINUED:

SOUND E/FX

(huge)

Krraaaaakkkkhhhh.

PAGE 20

PANEL ONE

Hallibastard and Chaos are on their knees, both stunned. Screaming, Flint leaps into the scene.

FLINT
Hrrraaaaaaaah!

PANEL TWO

Small. Flint jerks Sonny Terns' arm off his body...

SOUND E/FX
Rrrrkkk!

SONNY TERNS
Aaaahhhh! That's my arm, you Nig-

PANEL THREE

Small. Flint bats Terns' head off of his body with his arm like Babe Ruth. Terns' head goes soaring into the distance like a cannonball.

SOUND E/FX
Thwwwoooook!

PANEL FOUR

Flint is kicked in the face by a small foot. Her jaw shifts sideways.

SOUND E/FX
Krrcck!

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Kiiiaaaa!

FLINT
Fkkuuuh!

PANEL FIVE

Widescreen. Baby Citizen Soldier in coiled snake stance.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
You want some more of that?

PAGE 21

PANEL ONE

Reverse angle. Jumpmaster gives Citizen Soldier a thumbs-up. The Zombie (CODENAME ALIAS) is right behind him.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Jumpmaster, get us out of here.

JUMPMASTER
Sure, thing, boss! I'll-

PANEL TWO

What if Plastic Man were evil? Codename Alias drops his Zombie disguise and makes his hands into giant scissors right behind Jumpmaster's neck...

CITIZEN SOLDIER
JUMPMASTER!

PANEL THREE

...and cuts off his head.

SOUND E/FX
SHHHLOOKKK!

PANEL FOUR

A bright blue project entry teleport circle opens up. Out fall Dr. Grunier and Barak. Ivana Baiul smiles, her head and hands sticking out of the circle.

IVANA BAIUL
Hello, boys.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Quick, Baiul! They killed Jumpmaster! You've got to get us out of here!

IVANA BAIUL
I don't think so, squirt. In fact, I don't much care if I never see any of you again. So long, losers.

PANEL FIVE

The circle closes. Santini stands near it.

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Well, THAT was certainly unexpected.

21 CONTINUED:

SANTINI
Moral of the story: Never expect anything more from an executive. I’m thinking it’s time for a truce?

CITIZEN SOLDIER
Yeah? I’m thinking maybe you shouldn’t have killed my teleporter?

PAGE 22

PANEL ONE

Hallibastard, Deadhead and Chaos are rising to their feet. Alias cuts Pinkney & Golovin free with giant knife hands. Jaeger and Singh tend to Jukko, Barak and Grunier.

SANTINI
And I'm thinking about how long it's going to take us to walk to Siberia.

BARON CHAOS
Siberia? Make sense, fool. What of use could possibly be in Siberia?

PANEL TWO

C/Up of Santini, smiling.

SANTINI
The entire scientific team who built my Project Entry teleporter. They did it once, they can do it again.

PANEL THREE

Baron Chaos clutches his fingers.

BARON CHAOS
Yesssss... And then... Freedom! And Mandy!

SANTINI
Uhh, yeah, whatever. Save your strength for the walk, Chaos.

PANEL FOUR

Everyone marches off down the dusty hill.

DEADHEAD
Shit. I was really looking forward to killing you people, too.

JAEGER
Maybe next time, freak.

PANEL FIVE

Jukko walks off into the blood-red sunset, Baron Chaos following alongside him.

JUKKO
Maybe on the way we can find some grits.

22 CONTINUED:

BARON CHAOS
What are **grits**?

JUKKO
Grits are a dollar fifty.

BARON CHAOS
Okay... but **what** are they?

JUKKO
Grits? They're a dollar fifty.

CAPTION
To Be Continued!

TO BE CONTINUED!
(YEAH, RIGHT).

Alex,

Here you go, man... wish I'd had more than 3 weeks notice that the book was getting axed, (and I still don't think they waited long enough to see if there would be a post-coup bounce), but I think it's a pretty good ending considering the abruptness of my notice about the book getting snuffed.

Sorry it's a week late, but, y'know, I've had some crazy stuff going on the last two weeks. I know I'm not the most popular person there these days, but whatever... this last issue is for the fans who've spent $72 these last 24 months on the book. I can't imagine that the Great High Muckety Mucks at DC will cheat the readers out of a sense of closure, but who knows... they DID pulp an issue of League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, after all.

The ending is great for Wildstorm's purposes... everyone and everything's hermetically sealed... I've got about 7 great ways to get any or all of the characters out of Project Entry in a BELIEVABLE fashion (no rebirth of Phoenix malarkey). Just let me know if you ever want to use any of them again, and I'll slide you my story notes in case someone like Joe or Ed wants to use a character from Team Achilles.

Anyway, here we are, two and a half years, four editors, five pencillers, four inkers, twelve colorists later. I think we made a pretty good book. It's not the way I wanted to go out, but it's been fun writing it and the 13,000 people who've been reading all the way through these last two years seem to have enjoyed it. I guess that's all that matters at the end of the day. Well, that and WE had fun.

Yours,
Micah